*Grant of monopoly of collecting and exporting shank shells to Mr. L. A. Netto.*

192 **MR. A. THANU PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Mr. L. A. Netto of Valiaturai has been granted the monopoly of collecting, utilising and exporting shanks ;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, the terms of the grant ;

(*c*) when the monopoly was given ;

(*d*) why the monopoly was granted to him ;

(*e*) whether it was as an auxiliary to the working of his Button Factory that the monopoly was granted ;

(*f*) whether the factory is working now (17-4-1107) ;

(*g*) when Mr. Netto exported his last consignment of shanks ;

(*h*) the income during the several years after the monopoly was granted ;

(*i*) whether there are other applicants who would take the monopoly or contract for collecting shanks more profitably to the State ;

(*j*) the officer charged with the duty of seeing to the proper use of the monopoly granted ; and

(*k*) whether the shank collection and shank industry are now properly attended to ?

**MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI** (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A copy of the agreement executed by Mr. Netto is available for perusal in the office of the Secretary to the Legislative Council.

(*c*) The monopoly was granted in 1094.

(*d*) Because the Government were satisfied with the terms offered by him.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) On the 8th Karkatakam 1106.

(*h*) The information is subjoined :—

| *Year.* | *Royalty realised.* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Chs. | C. |
| 1094 | 185 | 0 | 0 |
| 1095 | 360 | 0 | 0 |
| 1096 | 175 | 0 | 0 |
| 1097 | 195 | 0 | 0 |
| 1098 | 125 | 0 | 0 |
| 1099 | 220 | 0 | 0 |
| 1100 | 280 | 0 | 0 |
| 1101 | 385 | 0 | 0 |
| 1102 | 442 | 14 | 0 |
| 1103 | 612 | 14 | 0 |
| 1104 | 1,125 | 0 | 0 |
| 1105 | 611 | 14 | 0 |
| 1106 | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 4,766 | 14 | 0 |

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(*i*) A few persons applied for the grant of the monopoly on better terms, but the applications could not be entertained as the period for which Mr. Netto has been granted the monopoly has not expired.

(*j*) It is the duty of the Director of Industries to see that all the conditions relating to the working of the Button Factory are fulfilled by the lessee, and the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries has to see to the proper fulfilment of the contract in respect of all the other matters.

(*k*) The shank industry has been greatly affected by the present economic depression. Dacca is the chief market for the Travancore shanks and there is not much demand for the article now. Hence the collection of shanks is not properly attended to.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : May I know why the information regarding the terms of the monopoly is not available here ?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : The agreement is with me here.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : May I know why it has not been made available to me here ?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : It is with me.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : It is not in the answer. My question is why it has not been given in the answer ; I wanted to know the terms of the agreement. The answer is " copy of the agreement executed by Mr. Netto is available for perusal in the office of the Secretary to the Legislative Council ". Could not the information be made available in this answer, I ask ?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : The agreement is a lengthy one.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : May I at least know the main provisions ? Has any royalty amount been fixed.

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : May I know that ?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : Rs. 25 per thousand shanks.

MR A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Is there any minimum amount that the contractor should pay to Government ?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : Only Rs. 25 per thousand as royalty.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : So, the quantity to be collected and the sale are left entirely to the contractor?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : No; it is not entirely left to the contractor.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Is there any stipulation as to the quantity that he should collect or, is it entirely left to his discretion ?

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MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The quantity collected by the contractor will be checked by the Department, the number will be ascertained, and then Rs. 25 per thousand will be recovered from him as royalty.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): That I understand. What I wish to know is whether there is any stipulation as to the minimum amount that he should pay to Government?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): There is no such stipulation in the agreement.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): So, the contractor may or may not collect and sell at all, and need not pay anything to Government, if he so chooses? Am I to understand that under the terms of the agreement the whole matter is left to the contractor? May I know whether the contractor is at liberty to do any business in shank or not?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): According to the terms of the agreement, he is at liberty to do business in shanks.

MR. A THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know what is the period of the contract?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Twenty years; there are only seven years more.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): So, it is left to the discretion of the contractor for the whole period to do the business as he likes. Is that the purport of the monopoly?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI ((*Ag. Secretary to Government*): It is not exactly like that.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is there any provision in the agreement that he should purchase shanks collected by others?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): It is stated that, on the 8th Karkatakam 1106, he exported shanks. May I know to which place he exported them?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): To Dacca. That is the chief place of his market.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know the number of persons who have applied for this monopoly?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): At the time it was granted no one else had applied for it?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): No, after that.

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): I have no information about that. That is not known.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was it sold in public auction?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Has there been any other application for this monopoly?

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MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): I am not aware of any.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Have the Government received any complaint that the shank industry is not being properly developed on account of this monopoly which prevents others from taking up this business?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): No.

*Defalcation in the Chackai Railway Chowkey.*

193. MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there was any defalcation in the Chackai Railway *Chowkey* in 1106 to the extent of Rs. 15,000;

(*b*) whether any officer was deputed to investigate it, and, if so, the nature of his report; and

(*c*) the punishment meted out to the officer and the officer by whom the punishment was given?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (*a*) There was no defalcation. There was, however, a suspected loss of revenue to the extent of about Rs. 480.

(*b*) An Excise Inspector and a Sub-Inspector were deputed to check the accounts of the Chackai Railway Customs. On checking the accounts certain discrepancies in the weight of *be di* tobacco assessed to duty were found and reported.

(*c*) Second Grade Sub-Inspector Mr. A. Paramesvaran Nayar who was responsible for the irregularities was ordered to pay up some of the short levies of duty observed on checking the accounts. He was also reduced by one step. The punishments were ordered by Mr. P. Gomatinayakam Pillai, the late Excise Commissioner.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): May I know the facts of the defalcation case in one or two short sentences?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Properly speaking, there is no defalcation. It was only a difference in weighment.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): May I know, how?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The *beedi*, weighed by the Railway officials, was found to weigh less when it was weighed by the Customs authorities.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): May I know how Government explain the word *'defalcation'*?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The member will kindly look into the Dictionary.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): May I know whether there is a Dictionary in the Legislative Council Library?

PRESIDENT: Please stick to the point, Mr. Nadar.

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